

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Session CVII

General Body Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Dale Hall 211

For virtual attendance option, contact the Secretary of Congress at CongressSec@ou.edu and Zoom information will be provided

Call to Order at 7:04 and Opening Roll Call: 19-10-3

Mission Statement: The mission of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association Undergraduate Student Congress is to represent the interests of undergraduate students in their pursuit of academic and individual achievement. The Undergraduate Student Congress is committed to building a strong campus community, promoting civic engagement, and enhancing the quality of the undergraduate experience at the University of Oklahoma.

Moment of Silence: 20 Second Moment of Silence to allow an opportunity for reflection.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes

Representative Griffin seconded by Representative Trautman

Officer Reports -

- **Chair's Report** – Welcome to the final meeting of the semester, after tonight we are done here until January. I wish everyone a happy break and that you get an opportunity to recharge. Tonight, we have a unique meeting, featuring representative Emily Virgin, she currently serves as the house minority leader. Chair Halsey-Kraus will be explaining the rules about the no confidence vote tonight. If you are on zoom, please turn on your cameras.
- **Vice Chair's Report** – Happy last meeting of the semester, there is going to be free pizza in the Conoco after the meeting! I got new nametags for everyone, let me know if there's an issue with yours. Take care of yourself and the burnout is terrible right now.
- **Secretary's Report** – All associates and representatives should've gotten an email from me about the Congressional Involvement Requirement, if you didn't, please follow up with me and I will add you to the mailing list I have. You'll have about three or four days from the meeting to get it submitted so please do since it is a requirement for membership.

Committee Reports-

- **Campus Outreach, Safety, and Concerns:**
 - For Cosco, on Friday we will have a sexual health tabling event, I will be there most of the time and there will always be a member of Cosco there. We will have 'sexperts' there and there will be free condoms. Please stop by to just say hello and show some support for a fellow committee. Cosco will be introducing coffee with congress, there will be a setup time when members of congress can meet with other students, this is a huge outreach opportunity for us. It will reoccur monthly; I want to start this next semester. Over break

you will be seeing messages from me; you can be an associate/representative or anyone that just cares.

- **Congressional Administration:**
 - ConAd met unofficially this weekend, Election Commissioner Kabrick came, and we talked about how to reform the election cycle. I know that we have a lot of feedback this term so please reach out to me, and I will always be listening. my email is my name. ConAd will be going over the no confidence votes. If you have questions, please raise it on parliamentary inquiry.
- **External Affairs:**
 - This past week, EA did not meet. Things to look forward to next semester...We are going to start planning for higher ed day and an additional lobby day. The current members from the last session are all planning legislation too! Look forward to that.
- **Human Diversity:**
 - HD did not meet last weekend due to the holiday; we have officially wrapped up for the semester. Friendsgiving was a success! All the left-over food was given over to Norman food pantries and shelters. Starting next semester, we will have special guest speakers at meetings, we are also going to start planning special events for next semester.
- **Sustainability:**
 - Susty is pretty much wrapped up for the semester. Everyone in the committee is already working on something for the next semester, Environmental Coalition speaker series. We will have three trash walks next semester.
- **University Policy:**
 - We did not meet last weekend, both Chair Lynskey and I have met with the OU health promotions to talk about the dangers of nicotine and vaping.
- **Ways and Means:**
 - Our next meeting is in the spring.

Special Orders

- Guest Speaker: Rep. Emily Virgin (D – Norman) – OK House Minority Leader
 - Thanks so much for having me, I was talking today to my legislative assistant and the policy director, both of whom are OU Alum. I was not in SGA when I was an undergrad here, I don't know much about SGA Stuff, but it sounds very entertaining. I want to just talk about my path, I'm assuming that a lot of you are interested in public service, there are a lot of jobs where you can work in policy and legislative work. This has really been my only job since college. I went to OU and got a degree in political science and then went to law school here too. I think back because this is going to be my last session. I've been thinking a lot about my past 12 years and my first campaign. Now that I'm 35, I encourage you to go for it whenever you get that itch. I took a lot for running for office at a young age, my youth is what a lot of people saw as an asset. Politics will crush your soul sometimes, especially as a democrat in Oklahoma. The policies that we try to advance are very important so it's worth it. Going into office, people will tell you to wait, and I don't subscribe to that, I'm glad I didn't wait. My first campaign required a lot of conversations with voters, more than my older male opponents. My district is the one that we are in right now, it's a progressive district. I had three opponents in the primary, lots and lots of door knocking, I wish I could've counted. The thing that I learned and that I keep learning in my campaign and helping people with theirs is that the candidate who works the hardest almost always wins, you can subtract some red and blue districts, but when you look at the primaries, the one who works the hardest wins, within a practical lens. In a district that is winnable, or a race, I have not really seen anyone who's worked the hardest and lost. And that has been true for a long time. You'd be surprised how many people don't want to put in the work, knocking on doors isn't fun. I have candidates that ask if you can just use social media or texting programs, but nothing beats getting out there and knocking the doors.

Fundraising is obviously important but my key to success was knocking way more doors than everyone. What I learned from that also was that policy positions are kind of overrated. They are important, you must be in touch with your district, but I've seen so many people fret so long over their platform. They're important, but what's more important is connecting with people and listening, making them feel like you're taking their feedback. I don't have a lot of people who say they aren't voting for me because of 'x, y, and z', they vote because you work hard and stay in touch. It's rarer these days to hear that, the way democrats hold onto their positions in red districts is by listening to their constituents. That's another trick of mine, people will say mean things when it's through a phone, but when you ask them to go get some coffee and you'll be amazed to see how it changes. State legislature is different than in many ways congress, but the biggest thing is that you interact with you colleagues much more. I love that about state legislature because of the collegiality, policy making can't be efficient where there is too much conflict. Its' where important stuff gets done, a lot of things fly under the radar. As much as trauma as I've experienced (therapy helps) I think that everyone in the legislature needs to go to therapy. That's sort of been my journey going into my last session, some important policy was Medicaid expansion which just got passed. Criminal Justice reform has thankfully been bipartisan, we've hit a small momentum shift on that, there having conversations about building a new jail, should we make it bigger? Should it be smaller. All these things that revolve around state legislature which trickles down to municipalities.

Lincoln Riley sucks, I can't be mad at Lincoln Riley for leaving but the way that he did it, the timing and everything. Have no fear Bob Stoops is here. Feel free to come visit me at the capitol anytime!

- I want to hear your take on the predictions for the Governors election in 2022?
 - I would love to know what lead to the governor's decision on the Julius Jones execution. I think his political calculation there was that he wasn't going to lose anyone on the right, he wasn't going to lose anything more but now he chose the option in the middle. I don't believe he has the power to do a commutation on Jones. Hoffmeister switching parties, as a lifelong republican, was a long shot for her although she could be the best chance. Governor Stitt's approval rating is still high, and he has national ambitions, a lot of the things he's doing could be aimed towards running for president. I don't think he's worried about the governor's race at all. It's going to be interesting to watch.
- How do you combat the sexism and approach talking to your colleagues who don't want to belief that they might be speaking to a woman who knows more?
 - I combatted it by working hard and being prepared, asking questions but not too many. It's a fine line, there were other democratic and republican women who also helped me find the way. I was at a conference with elected women across the country, a woman from South Carolina said she flirts with them in order to get heard. A woman from Minnesota who might be the speaker called it out as being horrible, having to flirt with people isn't just at all. Women my age and younger don't want to behave like that in order to be successful. There are two very different trains of thought between women. There's a big question about how these institutions don't protect people, congress is much worse and no one should have to endure harassment and death threats at the work place. The best way to fix it is to have people in power who have actual experience with these things. We've never had a female speaker of the house or partum. The women didn't have a woman leading the house until they lost the majority. It's a much bigger issue and with your generation coming in, it will help it immensely, it's still

largely a boy's club. There are just some people I don't talk to since we vehemently disagree, and you might also be disrespectful. . . . There are a lot of institutional issues, there's a lot of work to be done, there's a balance between getting the policy done and getting a vote but also setting an example for others around you.

- Why are many Politicians' engaging in culture wars rather than making tangible impacts on bipartisan issues?
 - Most republicans are catering to a base that's inherently more partisan. I'm not sure that's had the actual effect that's needed. People are always thinking about reelection and how they can balance that with what their voters want. It's a question of when people speak out, and say this is what we don't want, they need to speak up.
- With the covid panic, we saw a lot of municipalities denying state policies? Is that like the previous question?
 - It is the same line of thinking. I think if you're trying to set up a court challenge, then go ahead and pass something that's in conflict. With the mask issue, the state law was written very poorly, letting loopholes and education administrations set a mask mandate. It's a tricky legal issue, but ultimately what you saw is that the governors and state legislatures, who passed it in May, but then the delta variant hit, and it was much laxer.
- House bill 1775 Lawsuit, ACLU and OU University Professors?
 - I believe it's based off of the 1st and 14th amendment, student speech is where all of the case laws are, in the first amendment in schools. Not a lot of this legislature is relevant to curriculum, there isn't a lot of precedent set around it although it's important that they're challenging it.
- This past year Bill Shucking became more popular, do you think with the upcoming cycle, we'll see more of it?
 - It is a product of republican leadership trying to not hear all these bills that are more polarizing, but then others find a way around it. We'll probably see more of it.
- Once you decided to run in law school, how did you start a campaign?
 - I luckily had a lot of people around me who had done this or run campaigns, I met with leaders in the community and raising money, it shows you're a serious candidate. I didn't start knocking doors until spring break, although the primary was in July. Meeting with influential folks and being involved in the community are important. You don't want people in the community asking, 'since when have you cared'?
- If you could give your undergraduate self a single piece of advice, what would it be?
 - So many things, don't get that haircut. I thought I had it all planned out up to law school and maybe run for office. A lot of you probably identify with the thought that you have it all planned out, don't be afraid to look outside of it and question 'Why am I picking this?' I have a lot of friends from undergrad and law school who probably shouldn't have done it. They're doing it and supporting their families and making money but now are asking the questions if they should switch their careers. I wish I would've thought about it a little more. Appreciate youth when you're young.

Motion to recess until 8:25 PM

Representative Perez seconded by Representative Broadbent

- Code Club
- Executive Session: Regular Votes of No Confidence
 - o Secretary
 - Associate Kathuria: What has your experience been like as the new Secretary of Congress?
 - It's a lot of work but I've enjoyed every part of it so far, this has given me the opportunity to get to know all of exec more. Writing the minutes and hearing everything a second time gives me a lot of information and perspective too.
 - Representative Broadbent: Are you planning on excusing service hours for December?
 - Yes, since there is going to be no meeting, we aren't required to have a service point.
 - Representative Hale: How do you feel members of congress can make the point system better?
 - I think I can be more optimized. What should be counted for Points needs to be more defined. How to count Points should be better sent out than via a google doc.
 - Representative Hale: What is something you do to accomplish getting the minutes out on time?
 - I wake up earlier to get them out on time.
 - Associate Vu: What is something that has surprised you about the job?
 - There's 'hella' drama behind the scenes.
 - Associate Kathuria: What do plan to continue to make improvements to the secretary job?
 - I want to be more on top of things and send minutes and agendas to you all. We haven't had any official committee meetings since my appointment although I will be sending out those agendas to everyone once we do.
 - Chair Harman: What are some goals you have?
 - I want to be stricter about absences. I want everyone to have good excuses to not be at minutes.
 - Representative Broadbent: Would you want to take live minutes, or would you be open to it?
 - If it's something you all want, then I would be willing to do it.
 - Associate Marron: In the future how would you incentivize attendance?
 - I am going to start expelling members if they go over the max allowed absences. That's not something we've been enforced this, this semester although beginning in the Spring we will start expelling students.

Motion to Enter Executive Session

Representative Broadbent Seconded by Representative Payson

Motion to Exit Executive Session

Representative Broadbent Seconded Representative Dodd

○ Vice Chair

- Associate Lewis: What new initiatives are you excited to launch next semester?
 - I'm planning to implement my plan for a legislative liaison, each rep will be assigned to an RSO.
- Associate Kathuria: What has been your favorite Experience about being a vice chair?
 - I've made a lot of incredible friends and I care about everyone in this room. It's empowering to be surrounded by driven people.
- Chair Halsey-Kraus: How many constituents service opportunities do you have to provide?
 - It is 2!
- Halsey-Kraus: How often do you attend committee meetings?
 - I've been to a few this semester although the semester has been quite awful with timing. Along with sickness I haven't been able to attend as often as I wanted to.
- Associate Kathuria: How do you plan on working with the new Presidential Administration?
 - We're planning on setting up a meeting with them, in talks with also doing an ADA Report. It's a big concern we have on campus.
- Representative Hale: How many bills have you written as vice chair?
 - I have not written any legislation
- Chair Lange: What are you most worried about going into next semester?
 - It has concerned me slightly, the conflict between members, it's hard to watch but also maintain good morale. It's part of my duties as per the bylaws to maintain a good morale and keep us civil.
- Associate Vu: Have you completed each month's events since you've been appointed?
 - I have not.
- Chair Lewis: Is legislation more important or is being a leader more important?
 - More of my duties are explicative to the executive body and the general, being a leader. Legislation.
- Chair Halsey-Kraus: What percent of your office hours are in person?
 - I can't say a percentage, I'm accessible by every social media, and phone. I've dealt with a lot of sickness this semester, so it's made more sense to do it virtually. I'm there when I can be,
- Chair Harman: Would you be often to adopting an open-door policy next semester?
 - Yes! Hanging out in the Conoco used to be very prevalent and it's shifted since covid. I think it's a wonderful idea.
- Representative Hale: What is something you're proud to have accomplished during your time as a vice chair?
 - Going to lobby at the state and gaining support of other schools. Fighting for what I believed in.
- Representative Broadbent: Are you aware that I'm very happy with how quickly you respond to email and how good of a job you're doing as a vice-chair?
 - Thank you I appreciate that.
- Associate Kathuria: How do you want to improve as the vice chair of congress next semester?
 - School is my priority and covid was very difficult, we went back into in person classes and a filled-up schedule. A feeling of frustration, conflict and

being burnt-out. I hope that this following semester I can be more present, I have a positive outlook on this coming semester.

Motion to Enter Executive Session

Representative Griffin Seconded by Representative Hale

Motion to Exit Executive Session

Representative Griffin Seconded by Chair Trautman

○ Chair

- Associate Kathuria: What has been your favorite thing about being chair of congress?
 - The ability to advocate for students, SGA team leadership meeting, that's the time when the leaders can voice concerns directly to student's affairs. That's where I get to bring them to administration. The tuition increase is where I got to advocate directly to the regents. Talking face to face and making that case is my favorite part of the job.
- Chair Lewis: What projects are you working on next semester?
 - A student representative on the board of regents is one that I'm currently working on. The Oklahoma state constitution currently doesn't allow that, making is a huge undertaking. Another one is recognition of indigenous people at OU, there's several projects with that, priority enrollment for students in indigenous classes is one of them.
- Representative Hale: How did the welcome week tabling go?
 - The exec branch took lead, we were able to talk to countless different freshman. Plugging the general application and we got a lot of people to sign up. It was a great opportunity to let people know that we exist and that we are here to help them.
- Representative Broadbent: What are the biggest challenges you've faced? And how will you better the next chair?
 - I came into congress, and it was a bit unstable since the chair only had served for a semester prior to me. The very first thing I did was preside over the no confidence of the vice chair of Malakai. We had two brand new people in congress and worked with chairs.
- Associate Marron: The most pressing issues is the conflict between members of congress? How can we mitigate?
 - Older members to remember a document called the legislative disagreement guide. We can use that again in order to help our members navigate through conflict resolution.
- Vu: Many Asian RSO felt disconnected with the SGA, how will you work to improve that?
 - I had some communication with the AASA around the time of primaries and I was able to negotiate a bit of a solution as far as funding of organizations go. I look to improve on facilitating a better connection between RSO's and congress.
- Chair Halsey-Kraus: How can we improve the communication between reps and their districts?
 - Regular congress specific tabling and tabling in general. Physically engaging with our constituents. If we have a safe environment in spring, I would like to bring it back.

- Lange: What are you most concerned about in the next semester?
 - Concerned about Omicron and the covid situation, SGA specifically. Attendance is also a large issue, and it ties into overall engagement.

***Motion to Enter Executive Session
Griffin Seconded by Trautman***

***Motion to Exit Executive Session
Broadbent seconded by Hale***

Student Concerns

- **Associate Kathuria:** I want to address the concern that on the first floor of Dale Hall, the coed and men's restroom soap dispensers are not working.
- **Associate Marron:** Some of the parking garages will be difficult to navigate during stormy weather, I would like there to be more strict ticketing and policing of these areas.
- **Associate Hicks:** There is a lack of coaching and counseling services available for students, especially in more stressed circumstances.

Items to Be Considered

Follow-Up Reports

- **Representative Broadbent:** I have a cool announcement for my indigenous languages bill. It's been announced by the Tulsa World that the First Lady will be coming to Tulsa, and I will be reaching out to the first lady to ask if she would be willing to come down to OU and speak here.
- **George:** Might be unorthodox, our president Adrian Gibbs who started an initiative for off campus housing resources now has a website domain and is an OU resource. Offcampus.ou.edu.

Items for Future Agenda

- **Associate Kathuria:** Finishing the vaping and nicotine education act.
- **Chair Lange:** PAD Establishment, I will work with Halsey-Kraus to refine the language and we will be seeing it early next semester.
- **Chair Lewis:** Higher education resolution, Lobby Day resolution.
- **Associate Marron:** Beginning process regarding the campus wide celebration of an indigenous people's day.
-

Announcements and Comments

- **Harman:** Chipotle Benefit night for the women's resources center.
- **Hale:** It's the third day of Hanukkah, wish your Jewish friends a happy Hanukkah
- **Broadbent:** Constitutional Study meeting will have a meeting tomorrow night in the Carnegie lounge at 6:00 pm tomorrow.
- **Landry:** Giving Tuesday, find it in your heart to donate to whatever charity you feel. Relay for life or a food pantry, if you want the links for those then just dm me.
- **Kathuria:** Please get the covid 19 vaccine if you haven't yet, the omicron variant is now prevalent.
- **Perez: IN STOOPS WE TRUST.**
- **Harman:** UCol has opened applicants for teaching assistants. Those applications are now open, if you have question, please let me know.
- **Lange:** SEC Speakers series next semesters.

Final Roll Call: 17-11-4
Adjourn

Chair: Crispin South
Vice Chair: Sidney May
Secretary: Hadi Fawad

Attendance

| Session 107 | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Date of Session: | 30-Nov-21 | |
| Name: | Initial | Final |
| BARNETT, Ryan | x | x |
| BINGER, Christian | x | x |
| BROADBENT, Taylor | x | x |
| BROWN, Jordan | a | x |
| CANTU, Cole | x | x |
| CAPPLEMAN, Austin | a | a |
| CARMONA CASADO, Ismael | a | a |
| CHAMAN, Arin | x | x |
| CHENEVEY, Brandon | ex | ex |
| CHIARIELLO, Clayton | x | x |
| DAO, Audrey | x | a |
| DODD, Aiden | x | x |
| GRIFFIN, Weslie | x | x |
| HALE, Eileah | x | x |
| KIRK, Luke | a | a |
| LANDRY, Amelia | x | x |
| MANDRELL, Brady | a | a |
| MCGOWAN, Parker | a | a |
| MCPHERSON, David | x | x |
| MYERS, Beckett | a | a |
| NEALY, Tamera | a | a |
| PAPAHRONIS, Demitri | ex | ex |
| PAYSON, Olivia | x | x |
| PEREZ, Emiliano | x | x |
| PEREZ, Alondra | x | x |
| SEARLES, Dana | a | a |
| STOYAK, Michael | x | x |
| TESFASELASSIE, Robel | ex | ex |
| TRAUTMAN, Bailey | x | x |
| WILLIAMS, Michael | a | a |
| YANEZ, Becca | x | a |
| ZAQOUT, Mahmoud | x | ex |
| PRESENT | 19 | 17 |
| ABSENT | 10 | 11 |
| EXCUSED | 3 | 4 |

| Session 107 | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| | | | |
| Date of Session: | 30-Nov-21 | | |
| Votes of No Confidence | | | |
| Name: | Crispin South | Sidney May | Hadi Fawad |
| BARNETT, Ryan | | | |
| BINGER, Christian | N | N | N |
| BROADBENT, Taylor | N | N | N |
| BROWN, Jordan | N | N | |
| CANTU, Cole | N | N | N |
| CAPPLEMAN, Austin | | | |
| CARMONA CASADO, Ismael | | | |
| CHAMAN, Arin | N | N | N |
| CHENEVEY, Brandon | | | |
| CHIARIELLO, Clayton | N | N | N |
| DAO, Audrey | | | |
| DODD, Aiden | N | N | N |
| GRIFFIN, Weslie | N | N | N |
| HALE, Eileah | N | N | N |
| KIRK, Luke | | | |
| LANDRY, Amelia | N | N | N |
| MANDRELL, Brady | | | |
| MCGOWAN, Parker | | | |
| MCPHERSON, David | N | N | N |
| MYERS, Beckett | | | |
| NEALY, Tamera | | | |
| PAPAHRONIS, Demitri | | | |
| PAYSON, Olivia | N | N | N |
| PEREZ, Emiliano | N | N | N |
| PEREZ, Alondra | N | N | N |
| SEARLES, Dana | | | |
| STOYAK, Michael | N | N | N |
| TESFASELASSIE, Robel | | | |
| TRAUTMAN, Bailey | N | N | N |
| WILLIAMS, Michael | | | |
| YANEZ, Becca | | | |
| ZAQOUT, Mahmoud | | | |
| Yes | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 16 | 16 | 15 |
| Abstain | 0 | 0 | 0 |